These results are taken from a longer paper on panmixia and regression, which ill-health has prevented my completing up to the present date.

VIII. "On the Occlusion of Oxygen and Hydrogen by Platinum Black. (Part I.)" By LUDWIG MOND, F.R.S., WILLIAM RAMSAY, Ph.D., F.R.S., and JOHN SHIELDS, D.Sc., Ph.D. Received June 13, 1895.

(Abstract.)

The authors describe some preliminary experiments on the occlusion of oxygen and hydrogen by platinum sponge and foil, which in general confirm the results obtained by Graham. At most only a few volumes of these gases are occluded by the more coherent forms of platinum.

After giving details of what they consider the best method of preparation of platinum black, they next describe some experiments which had for their object the determination of the total quantity of water retained by platinum black, dried at 100° C., and the amount of water which can be removed from platinum black at various temperatures in vacuo. As the result of these experiments they find that platinum black dried at 100° retains in general 0·5 per cent. of water, and this can only be removed in vacuo at a temperature (about 400°) at which the black no longer exists as such, but is converted at least partially into sponge. At any given temperature the water retained by platinum black seems to be constant. The density of platinum black dried at 100° C. is 19·4, or allowing for the water retained by it at this temperature, 21·5.

The amount of oxygen given off by platinum black at various temperatures was determined. Altogether it contains about 100 volumes of oxygen; the oxygen begins to come off in quantity at about 300° C. in vacuo, and the bulk of it can be extracted at 400° C., but a red heat is necessary for its complete removal. Small quantities of carbon dioxide were also extracted, chiefly between 100—200° C.

In determining the quantity of hydrogen occluded by platinum black the authors have carefully distinguished between the hydrogen which goes to form water with the oxygen always contained in platinum black, and that which is really absorbed by the platinum *per se*. Altogether about 310 volumes of hydrogen are absorbed per unit volume of platinum black, but of this 200 volumes are converted into water, or only 110 volumes are really occluded by the platinum. Part of it can be again removed at the ordinary temperature in vacuo; by far the larger portion can be extracted at about 250—300° C., but a red heat is necessary for its complete removal. The amount of hydro-

gen absorbed by platinum is very largely influenced by slight traces of impurity, probably grease or other matter which forms a skin over the platinum.

Platinum black in vacuo absorbs a certain quantity of hydrogen. On increasing the pressure of the hydrogen up to about 200—300 mm. a further quantity is absorbed, but after this pressure is almost without effect. By increasing the pressure from one atmosphere up to four and a half atmospheres, only one additional volume of hydrogen was absorbed. On placing platinum black charged with oxygen in an atmosphere of oxygen, and increasing the pressure to the same extent eight and a half additional volumes were however absorbed.

Platinum black charged with hydrogen and placed in an atmosphere of hydrogen kept approximately at atmospheric pressure, and platinum black charged with oxygen and confined in an atmosphere of oxygen, behave quite differently when heated. In the former case hydrogen is immediately expelled on raising the temperature, whilst in the latter case oxygen is steadily absorbed until a temperature of about 360° C. (the temperature of maximum absorption) is reached, when on further heating oxygen begins to come off again.

Incidentally it was noticed that mercury begins to combine with oxygen at 237° C., and that a mixture of platinum black and phosphorus pentoxide absorbs oxygen at a high temperature probably with the formation of a phosphate or pyrophosphate.

In the discussion of the results special reference is made to the work of Berliner and Berthelot, and it is pointed out that there is not sufficient evidence for the existence of such chemical compounds as $Pt_{30}H_3$ and $Pt_{30}H_2$. Moreover, the authors are of opinion that the heats of combination of hydrogen and platinum as determined by Berthelot and Favre are valueless, and that the heat which they measured is due for the most part if not entirely to the formation of water by the oxygen always contained in platinum black. It has yet to be *proved* that the absorption of hydrogen by pure platinum black is attended by the evolution of heat, and as regards the formation of supposed true chemical compounds, solid solutions, or alloys, the authors prefer to wait until sufficient data have been accumulated for an adequate enquiry, before coming to any definite conclusion.